

EXHIBIT 1

Dalton v. Walgreen Co.

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division

May 29, 2013, Decided; May 29, 2013, Filed

Case No. 4:13 CV 603 RWS

Reporter

2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 75086; 2013 WL 2367837

CHRISTINE DALTON and WILLIAM AARON, JR., individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs, vs. WALGREEN CO., Defendant.

Subsequent History: Decision reached on appeal by Dalton v. Walgreen Co., 721 F.3d 492, 2013 U.S. App. LEXIS 14107 (8th Cir. Mo., July 12, 2013)

Related proceeding at Garr v. Toys "R" United States, Inc., 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106925 (E.D. Mo., July 31, 2013)

Case Summary

Overview

Defendant company's motion to stay the remand was granted as it demonstrated an adequate likelihood of success on the merits of the appeal. The company would likely be irreparably harmed by the burden of having to simultaneously litigate these cases in state court and on appeal to the Eighth Circuit. Neither party would be required to incur additional expenses from simultaneous litigation before a definitive ruling on appeal was issued. Plaintiff class members would not be harmed by a lengthy delay because of the expedited appellate review process set forth in 28 U.S.C.S. § 1453(c).

Outcome

Motion granted.

Counsel: [*1] For Christiane Dalton, Aaron William, Jr., individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs: Patrick J.

Horsefield, LEAD ATTORNEY, STEELMAN AND GAUNT, Rolla, MO; Stephen F. Gaunt, LEAD ATTORNEY, STEELMAN, GAUNT & HORSEFIELD, Rolla, MO.

For Walgreen Co., Defendant: Rodney E. Loomer, TURNER AND REID, Springfield, MO.

Judges: RODNEY W. SIPPEL, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE.

Opinion by: RODNEY W. SIPPEL

Opinion

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Defendant removed this case to this court from Missouri state court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), as amended by the Class Action Fairness Act (CAFA). On April 16, 2013, I entered an order remanding this case to state court. Defendant now seeks an order staying remand of this case pending appellate review of the remand orders. For the following reasons, I will grant Defendant's motion to stay the remand.

Background

Plaintiffs filed this case in Missouri state court, alleging that Defendant tracked and used Plaintiffs' internet history in violation of the Missouri statute regarding computer tampering, the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, and common law. Defendant removed this case from the Circuit Court of Phelps County pursuant to CAFA. Because I concluded that Defendant [*2] did not meet its burden of establishing an amount in controversy

that is at least \$5 million—a necessary requirement under CAFA—I remanded the case to state court on April 16, 2013. On May 13, 2013, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit granted Defendant's petition for permission to appeal the remand order.

Defendant now seeks a stay of the remand order, arguing that equity favors issuance of a stay. Defendant argues that the brief stay required for the expedited appeal process will prevent the parties from having to expend resources to litigate the case simultaneously in state court and on appeal, and that it would avoid any potentially inconsistent rulings from the state court.

Discussion

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1447(d), an order remanding a case to state court is generally not reviewable on appeal. For that reason, when a district court issues a remand order, the district court is ordinarily divested of jurisdiction, allowing the state court to proceed with the case. 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c). However, Congress expressly authorized federal courts of appeals to exercise their discretion to accept an appeal from a remand order under CAFA "notwithstanding section 1447(d)." 28 U.S.C. § 1453(c). [*3] This statute constitutes an exception to the general rule that remand orders are not appealable.

I have jurisdiction to reopen this case for the limited purpose of staying the remand order. "To hold that a district court lacks the limited jurisdiction to stay its remand order in a CAFA case would render the statutory right to appeal a CAFA remand order hollow." Raskas v. Johnshon & Johnson, Nos. 4:12 CV 2174 JCH, 4:12 CV 2266 HEA, 4:12 CV 2307 CDP, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 60531, 2013 WL 1818133, at *1 (E.D. Mo. Apr. 29, 2013); see also Ind. State Dist. Council of Laborers & Hod Carriers Pension Fund v. Renal Care Grp., Inc., No. 3:05-0451, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24210, 2005 WL 2237598 (M.D.Tenn. Sept.12, 2005) ("If the case is actually remanded, and the state court proceeds to move it forward, the

appellate right would be an empty one."). Exercising limited jurisdiction to stay a CAFA remand order is appropriate in light of the statutory scheme allowing immediate appeal of such orders.¹ See, e.g., Smith v. Am. Bankers Ins. Co. of Fla., No. 2:11-CV-02113, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 147200, 2011 WL 6399526 (W.D.Ark. Dec.21, 2011) (assuming jurisdiction and conducting a stay analysis on the merits); Tomlinson v. Skechers USA, Inc., No. 5:11-CV-5042, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 157852 (W.D. Ark. June 17, 2011) [*4] (same).

When deciding a motion to stay pending appellate review, courts consider four factors in determining whether a stay is warranted: "(1) the likelihood that a party seeking the stay will prevail on the merits of the appeal; (2) the likelihood that the moving party will be irreparably harmed absent a stay; (3) the prospect that others will be harmed if the court grants the stay; and (4) the public interest in granting the stay." Iowa Utils. Bd. v. F.C.C., 109 F.3d 418, 423 (8th Cir. 1996). This court must "consider the relative strength of the four factors, balancing them all." Brady v. Nat'l Football League, 640 F.3d 785, 789 (8th Cir. 2011) (internal quotations marks and citation omitted).

After examining the four factors, I find that [*5] a stay is warranted. Although I remanded this case, Defendant has demonstrated an adequate likelihood of success on the merits of the appeal. More persuasive is the likelihood that Defendant will be irreparably harmed by the burden of having to simultaneously litigate these cases in state court and on appeal to the Eighth Circuit, as well as the potential of inconsistent outcomes if the state court rules on any motions while the appeal is pending. If

¹Some courts have declined to exercise jurisdiction in these circumstances, holding that the rule divesting district courts of jurisdiction once a remand order has been sent to the state court applies to CAFA remand orders. See, e.g., In re Oxycontin Antitrust Litig., No. 08 Civ. 3380, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 117124, 2011 WL 4801360 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 6, 2011); Migis v. AutoZone, Inc., No. Civ. 08-1394, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18810, 2009 WL 690627 (D.Or. Mar. 6, 2009).

I grant a stay, neither party would be required to incur additional expenses from simultaneous litigation before a definitive ruling on appeal is issued. Additionally, Plaintiffs would not be harmed by a lengthy delay because of the expedited appellate review process set forth in § 1453(c). Finally, the public interest favors granting a stay because it would avoid potentially duplicative litigation, thereby conserving judicial resources.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendant's

motion for stay of remand [#18] is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the proceedings in this case are stayed, pending final resolution of Defendant's appeal of the remand order to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

/s/ Rodney W. Sippel

RODNEY W. SIPPEL

UNITED [*6] STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated this 29th day of May, 2013.